

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending and stand rejected for obviousness under 35 USC § 103. Claims 1-5 are hereby amended to the recited tree construction of the present invention in which a sub-tree includes a service class definition. Herein, the customer sub-tree uses the service entries generated responsive to a customer's request. Entries are associated with the network and policy rule formats are provided for managing the policy. The customer sub-tree is thus layered to have a hierarchy of the customer entry with the sub-tree layered by the service class, service entry, policy rule format, and so on.

In such a configuration, the described embodiments make reference to the service class definition of the system sub-tree from the service entries of the customer sub-tree. Reference is made to the rule format of the policy sub-tree from the service class definition of the system sub-tree. The policy rule generates entries as a subordinate of the service entries of the customer sub-tree according to the rule format of the policy sub-tree. Thus, conditions are set for parameters written in the policy rule format in generating the policy rule entries.

Further, in the service entries of the Applicant's invention, there is a field of the Rule Create Status representing whether the policy rule entries were generated as a subordinate of the service entries. The status of this field is confirmed to generate it in a case where the policy rule entries were not generated as a subordinate of the service entries. Also, the policy can be applied for the network appliance according to the parameter for designating the application period of the policy.

These characteristics, which were not described in the cited reference, allows the effect that the data capacity can be saved, a measure can be flexibly taken to cope with a change of the rule, and a measure can be flexibly taken to cope with a change of service to be obtained. The characteristics of the described embodiment, in which the parameter for designating the time for setting the policy is set as a attribute of the service entries, and the parameter for designating the object of application of the policy is set as an attribute of the policy rule entries allows the system to make a reference to the DIT (Directory Information Tree) to actually apply the policy for the network appliance etc. in generating the service entries can detect the application time of the policy and the object of application of the policy.

Appl'n No. 09/739,158
Reply to O.A. dated August 9, 2004
Office Action dated March 9, 2004

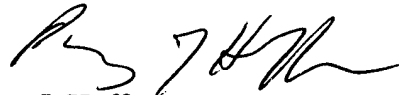
If the examiner would like to discuss Applicant's invention prior to issuing an action, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned attorney.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant has placed the case in condition for reconsideration and respectfully requests allowance of pending claims 1-39.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

8-9-04



Perry J. Hoffman
Registration No. 37,150
MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLC
401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 222-6636
(312) 222-0818 (fax)

Attorney Docket No. 204303-0010

S:\client\204303\0010\C0409133.1